

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2
3 1. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed
4 to:
5 display to each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a preview of shipping
6 rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses the
7 computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device,
8 wherein each user having an individual electronic connection to the global communications
9 network.

10
11 2. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed
12 to:
13 calculate for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a shipping rate for
14 each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a
15 particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
16 communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer
17 device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

18
19 3. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed
20 to:
21 determine for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a delivery schedule
22 for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a
23 particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
24 communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer
25 device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

26
27 4. A computer system for displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each
28 user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package,
29 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

1 using a client computer device, each user having an individual electronic connection to the
2 global communications network, said computer system programmed to:

3 calculate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers a
4 shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics
5 shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each
6 particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set of parcel specifications
7 for the particular parcel input by the particular user and as applied to an origin postal code
8 and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

9 generate an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display
10 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

11
12 5. The computer system of Claim 4, said computer system programmed to:
13 determine a delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services offered by each of
14 the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel .

15
16 6. The computer system of Claim 5 wherein the generated online comparison
17 display further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the services for delivering
18 the particular package.

19
20 7. A computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping each of a
21 plurality of parcels to be shipped by one of a plurality of users according to a plurality of
22 carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications
23 network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an
24 individual electronic connection to the global communications network, said computer
25 system programmed to:

26 collect as parcel specifications for a particular parcel a user input from one of the
27 plurality of users wherein said user input comprising at least one of: a package type, package
28 dimensions, package weight, and a value of the particular parcel;

29 collect from the particular user a user input of an origin zip code and an exemplary

1 destination zip code; and

2 generate an online comparison display to a display monitor configured with the user
3 client computer device of the particular user a preview of shipping rates for a plurality of
4 services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel wherein said
5 preview shipping rates are calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping
6 rules for each of the plurality of carriers and according to a set of pricing rules for each of the
7 plurality of services offered by each particular carrier as applied to the parcel specifications
8 and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary destination zip code.

9
10 8. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management
11 computer system programmed to:

12 compare each shipping rate for shipping a particular parcel with each of a plurality of
13 services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a shipping rate for shipping the
14 particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by each of a
15 plurality of carriers.

16
17 9. The shipping management computer system of Claim 8, said shipping
18 management computer system further programmed to:

19 determine the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

20
21 10. The shipping management computer system of Claim 9, said shipping
22 management computer system further programmed to:

23 generate a report of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

24
25 11. The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report
26 of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

27
28 12. The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report
29 of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible

1 announcement.
2

3 13. The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report
4 comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer
5 the lowest shipping rate and of the shipping rate.
6

7 14. The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report
8 comprises an audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the
9 lowest shipping rate and of the shipping rate.
10

11 15. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management
12 computer system programmed to:

13 compare each delivery schedule for shipping a particular parcel with each of a
14 plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a delivery schedule for
15 shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by
16 each of a plurality of carriers.
17

18 16. The shipping management computer system of Claim 15, said shipping
19 management computer system further programmed to:

20 determine the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.
21

22 17. The shipping management computer system of Claim 16, said shipping
23 management computer system further programmed to:

24 generate a report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.
25

26 18. The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report
27 of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual
28 display.
29

1 19. The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report
2 of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible
3 announcement.
4

5 20. The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report
6 comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer
7 the earliest delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.
8

9 21. The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report
10 comprises an audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the
11 earliest delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.
12

13 22. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
14 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:
15 displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a preview of
16 shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses
17 the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device,
18 wherein each user having an individual electronic connection to the global communications
19 network.
20

21 23. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
22 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:
23 calculating for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a shipping rate for
24 each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a
25 particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
26 communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer
27 device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.
28

29 24. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

1 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

2 determining for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a delivery
3 schedule for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for
4 shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
5 communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer
6 device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

7
8 25. A method using a computer system for displaying to each of a plurality of
9 users upon each user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a
10 particular package, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
11 communications network using a client computer device, each user having an individual
12 electronic connection to the global communications network, said method comprising
13 calculating for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers
14 a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics
15 shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each
16 particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set of parcel specifications
17 for the particular parcel input by the particular user and as applied to an origin postal code
18 and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and
19 generating an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display
20 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

21
22 26. The method of Claim 25, said method further comprising:
23 determining a delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services offered by each
24 of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel .

25
26 27. The method of Claim 26 wherein the generated online comparison display
27 further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the services for delivering the
28 particular package.

1 28. A method using a computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping
2 each of a plurality of parcels to be shipped by one of a plurality of users according to a
3 plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global
4 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device
5 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network, said
6 method comprising:

7 collecting as parcel specifications for a particular parcel a user input from one of the
8 plurality of users wherein said user input comprising at least one of: a package type, package
9 dimensions, package weight, and a value of the particular parcel;

10 collecting from the particular user a user input of an origin zip code and an exemplary
11 destination zip code; and

12 generating an online comparison display to a display monitor configured with the user
13 client computer device of the particular user a preview of shipping rates for a plurality of
14 services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel wherein said
15 preview shipping rates are calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping
16 rules for each of the plurality of carriers and according to a set of pricing rules for each of the
17 plurality of services offered by each particular carrier as applied to the parcel specifications
18 and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary destination zip code.

19
20 29. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
21 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

22 comparing each shipping rate for shipping a particular parcel with each of a plurality
23 of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a shipping rate for shipping the
24 particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by each of a
25 plurality of carriers.

26
27 30. The method of Claim 29, said method further comprising:

28 determining the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

1 31. The method of Claim 30, said method further comprising:

2 generating a report of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

3
4 32. The method of Claim 31 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that
5 offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

6
7 33. The method of Claim 31 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that
8 offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible announcement.

9
10 34. The method of Claim 31 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a
11 graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of
12 the shipping rate.

13
14 35. The method of Claim 31 wherein said report comprises an audible
15 announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of
16 the shipping rate.

17
18 36. A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of
19 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:
20 comparing each delivery schedule for shipping a particular parcel with each of a
21 plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a delivery schedule for
22 shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by
23 each of a plurality of carriers.

24
25 37. The method of Claim 36, said method further comprising:

26 determining the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.

27
28 38. The method of Claim 37, said method further comprising:

29 generating a report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery

1 schedule.

2
3 39. The method of Claim 38 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that
4 offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual display.

5
6 40. The method of Claim 38 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that
7 offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible announcement.

8
9 41. The method of Claim 38 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a
10 graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule
11 and of the delivery schedule.

12
13 42. The method of Claim 38 wherein said report comprises an audible
14 announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule
15 and of the delivery schedule.

16
17 43. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
18 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
19 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

20 a set of program instructions for displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each
21 user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package,
22 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network
23 using a client computer device, wherein each user having an individual electronic connection
24 to the global communications network.

25
26 44. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
27 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
28 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

29 a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of users upon each

1 user's request a shipping rate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality
2 of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system
3 over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user
4 client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
5 communications network.

6
7 45. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
8 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
9 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10 a set of program instructions for determining for each of a plurality of users upon
11 each user's request a delivery schedule for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a
12 plurality of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer
13 system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each
14 user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global
15 communications network.

16
17 46. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
18 execution by a computer system for displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each user's
19 request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package,
20 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network
21 using a client computer device, each user having an individual electronic connection to the
22 global communications network, said computer program product comprising:

23 a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of services offered
24 by each of a plurality of carriers a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel according
25 to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set
26 of pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set
27 of parcel specifications for the particular parcel input by the particular user and as applied to
28 an origin postal code and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

29 a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display of the

1 calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the client computer device of
2 the particular user.

3
4 47. The computer program product of Claim 46, said computer program product
5 further comprising:

6 a set of program instructions for determining a delivery schedule for each of the
7 plurality of services offered by each of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular
8 parcel .

9
10 48. The computer program product of Claim 47 wherein the generated online
11 comparison display further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the services for
12 delivering the particular package.

13
14 49. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
15 execution by a computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping each of a plurality
16 of parcels to be shipped by one of a plurality of users according to a plurality of carriers,
17 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network
18 using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual
19 electronic connection to the global communications network, said computer program product
20 comprising:

21 a set of program instructions for collecting as parcel specifications for a particular
22 parcel a user input from one of the plurality of users wherein said user input comprising at
23 least one of: a package type, package dimensions, package weight, and a value of the
24 particular parcel;

25 a set of program instructions for collecting from the particular user a user input of an
26 origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code; and

27 a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display to a display
28 monitor configured with the user client computer device of the particular user a preview of
29 shipping rates for a plurality of services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the

1 particular parcel wherein said preview shipping rates are calculated according to a set of
2 parcel characteristics shipping rules for each of the plurality of carriers and according to a set
3 of pricing rules for each of the plurality of services offered by each particular carrier as
4 applied to the parcel specifications and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary
5 destination zip code.

6
7 50. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
8 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
9 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10 a set of program instructions for comparing each shipping rate for shipping a
11 particular parcel with each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers
12 with a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the plurality
13 of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers.

14
15 51. The computer program product of Claim 50, said computer program product
16 further comprising:

17 a set of program instructions for determining the service and the carrier that offer the
18 lowest shipping rate.

19
20 52. The computer program product of Claim 51, said computer program product
21 further comprising:

22 a set of program instructions for generating a report of the service and the carrier that
23 offer the lowest shipping rate.

24
25 53. The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report of the service
26 and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

27
28 54. The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report of the service
29 and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible announcement.

1
2 55. The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report comprises a
3 visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest
4 shipping rate and of the shipping rate.
5

6 56. The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report comprises an
7 audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping
8 rate and of the shipping rate.
9

10 57. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for
11 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by
12 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

13 a set of program instructions for comparing each delivery schedule for shipping a
14 particular parcel with each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers
15 with a delivery schedule for shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the
16 plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers.
17

18 58. The computer program product of Claim 57, said computer program product
19 further comprising:

20 a set of program instructions for determining the service and the carrier that offer the
21 earliest delivery schedule.
22

23 59. The computer program product of Claim 58, said computer program product
24 further comprising:

25 generating a report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery
26 schedule.
27

28 60. The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report of the service
29 and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual display.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

61. The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible announcement.

62. The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.

63. The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report comprises an audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.